



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

Anniston Chemical Activity

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INTERNATIONAL TEAM CONDUCTED UNSCHEDULED INSPECTION OF CHEMICAL STOCKPILE AT DEPOT

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala. – An international team from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) spent last week at Anniston Army Depot inspecting the stockpile of chemical munitions stored here.

The OPCW is a multinational group located at The Hague, The Netherlands, established through the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Members of the OPCW oversee the worldwide verification of compliance with the international treaty.

Last week's visit was the 11th visit by an OPCW team to inspect the weapons stored and monitored by Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) employees. A team was last in Anniston in October 2004. The inspections are carried out to verify that accurate records of the stockpile are properly maintained.

The inspection team focused on the Anniston chemical weapons storage mission. The Anniston chemical demilitarization program was not involved in the inspection.

"I am proud to report," said Lt. Col. Darryl J. Briggs, ANCA commander, "that the inspection concluded earlier than expected and that it was very successful. Our success is due to the outstanding leadership of our Treaty Compliance Officer, Wesley Bynum, and all of the superb support from Team Anniston, which includes the Anniston Chemical Activity workers as well as the many other support personnel from Anniston Army Depot and tenant agencies."

The Anniston stockpile, which consists of a variety of weapons and one-ton bulk containers, has been safely and securely stored at the site since the early 1960s. The stockpile includes nerve agents VX and GB, and also blister (mustard) agents HD and HT.

ANCA is a tenant organization on Anniston Army Depot. The Activity belongs to the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. ANCA is charged with ensuring the safety and security of the chemical weapons stockpile.

The CWC prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: Due to the sensitive nature of the inspection and the limited time inspectors had to complete their survey of the storage area, media and public access to the team and process was not permitted. Please contact Michael B. Abrams, CMA-Anniston Public Affairs Officer, at (256) 453-3840, if you have any questions.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

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